

THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME 8 ** NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1990

EDITED BY:	DICK WAGNER
CHAIRMAN:	
V/CHAIRMAN:	GAYLEN BENCH
SECRETARY:	BETTY SCHAFFLER
TREASURER:	ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER:	BOB EVANS
LIBRARIANS:	JACK ARMSTRONG
	BILL DUNLOP

MEETING

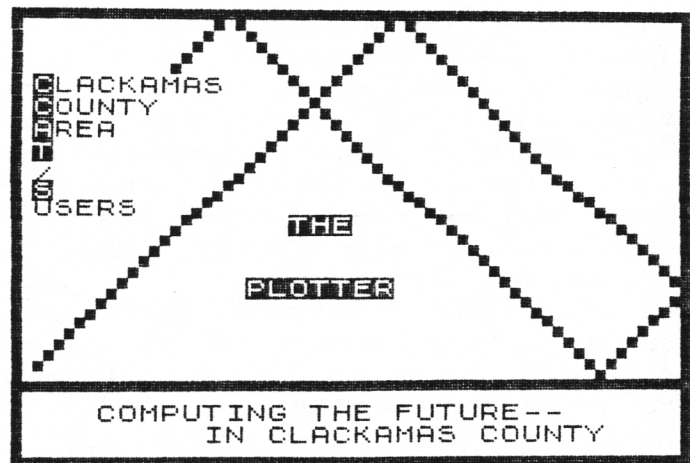
The JANUARY meeting will be:

on: FRI., JANUARY 12, 1990

meeting room open at: 7:00 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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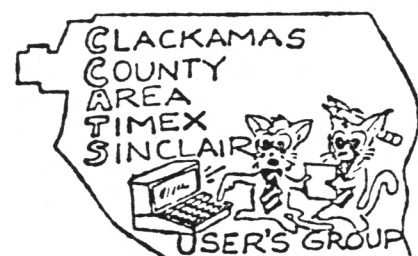
EDITORIAL

Dick Wagner

It appears that 1990 will continue to present advanced programs for our TS computers. New hardware will probably be missing now that Larry Kenny will be devoting time to the MS-DOS system. Perhaps he will get some ideas that can be applied to our 2068 system. Rod has mentioned a spelling checker, and we do know that there is a desk top publishing program in the works.

We are fortunate that Time Designs Magazine has made a recovery and is again available. We hope Tim didn't loose too many subscribers and advertisers. It would seem that as suppliers drop out that fewer ads will be available to help cover the cost of publishing. It behouves all of us TS users to support each and every supplier and publisher if we expect support in return.

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Continued from page 1

The TS computers have been great computers with which to get into this hobby and business. Just consider that about 64 members have joined up with CCAT/S since our beginning and have dropped out for one reason or another. If they are no longer interested in this activity then it didn't cost them a great deal to learn that it wasn't for them. We do know that some have advanced to other makes of computers, much more expensive in some cases. And of course, some have learned to use computers in business.

WE APOLOGIZE

The November, 1989 issue of THE PLOTTER reported Larry Kenny's name as Kenny Larken. We will try better in future issues.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The December meeting was called to order at 8 PM by Vice Chairman Merlin Raymond in the absence of Michael Carver. Secretary Betty Schaffler was also absent so Dick Wagner volunteered to take the minutes.

Treasurer Rod Gowen reported the treasury stands at about \$180. Further expenses for 1989 will be for the January newsletter. However, payment for these expenses will likely not be paid until 1990. He reminded members that dues are to be paid at the January meeting. Dick Wagner will run an expected 1990 cost of operation based on previous years records. It is hoped that it will be possible to return to our standard annual dues of \$15.00. For 2 years dues have been at \$20.00 to recoup expenses.

Rod reported a new member, Terry Graham. He also reported that business cards can be picked up at any time. Jack Armstrong arranged for the printing the very nice looking cards.

It was reported that Computer Shopper magazine is no longer publishing a Timex Sinclair column. This means one less information source for us users.

The BBS situation was discussed in depth as quite a few problems have surfaced. Among other problems it seems that some message files have been lost at some Echo.

A Christmas card was circulated for Syd Wyncoop and family to be signed by present members. Rod mentioned that Syd would like to hear from any and all members. Remember, Syd maintains his membership.

Tim Woods (yes, he was at the meeting) reported that TDM was to be mailed out shortly. This is the second issue under the new page format. So far we haven't heard too many complaints about the abbreviated size.

Merlin reported the availability of 12 volt cooling fans with metal frames for \$5.00, including several filters. He had his supply on hand just in case of interest.

The report that the ZX88 lap top computer was on the discontinued list was a surprise. Rod reported that he had one left in inventory at a price of \$400.00 and that would be the last for him. This brought the point that the price of memory chips was continuing downward and just might reach the price at which the Japanese suppliers produces a shortage.

There was considerable discussion about Packet radio (the HAM radio system that takes the place of modems thru radio transmission). The question was the possibility for a commercial company to use such a system to communicate directly with their various outlets. There are strict regulations limiting the use of HAM radio.

An interesting inquiry from Merlin produced some discussion on encyclopedia sources for computers. It seems that some BBS do have

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encyclopedias but at considerable cost. This inquiry was for MS-DOS systems. Our 2068s hardly have the memory capability for such ideas.

Tim reported the operation of a BBS in conjunction with his TDM publishing business. So far it seems to be a method of receiving data and messages and not so much for downloading. He does hope to have the software working properly for this purpose soon. Tim displayed a special TS power supply that never got into production. It did look like a unit off the shelf. Basically it was an all purpose unit to provide the necessary voltages at reasonable computer loads.

The meeting was adjourned by the Vice Chairman

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, NOON - 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

ELECTIONS:-

Are over and the results are posted elsewhere in this newsletter. This is the first time in the history of our group that we have ended up with a tie in the race for Chairman! We will have to have a coin toss to finalize this one! Be sure to be at the January meeting to see who will be our new Chairman!

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE!

Just a quick note to say that we were pleased to see Tim Woods, Editor of Time Designs Magazine, at our December meeting. Last time we saw him was back in April! Welcome back Tim! Don't be such a stranger to your own group!

CAMBRIDGE NEWS-

As most of you know, a company known as CAMBRIDGE NORTH AMERICA has been distributing the CAMBRIDGE Z88 portable computer in the U.S.. Now, it seems that the parent company, NEW ENGLAND SALES, got into a lot of financial trouble and decided to file for bankruptcy. To save itself, Cambridge N.A. filed for protection under Chapter 13 of the bankruptcy act. They also decided to stop being the distributor and to only sell via mail order direct. This leaves SHARP'S as the ONLY importer of the Z88 computer. This means that SHARP'S will be the only large supporter of the Z88 in the U.S.. RMG Enterprises reports that they will no longer support the Z88 after 1/1/1990.

MORE CAMBRIDGE NEWS-

We just found out that SIR CLIVE SINCLAIR or CAMBRIDGE COMPUTERS LTD. in Great Britain, will be releasing an MS-DOS based portable computer (under 4 pounds) in early 1990. The unit will include a 3.5" drive and a choice of a 20 or 40 MByte hard drive. We will have to wait and see what he comes up with this time!

SINCLAIR USERS UNITE! ECHO-

IS GETTING OUT!!! We logged on to THE BULL PEN BBS, Home of the Echo, and saw a message there from Robert Cazares of Seattle, WA telling us that there was now a node in Seattle carrying the Echo. Hopefully, this means that the Echo will now be picked up by more BBSs around the country! On this same note, ROD GOWEN, or RMG Enterprises and CCAT/S, has been appointed Echo Moderator of the SINCLAIR USERS UNITE! ECHO. It was he, along with BOB CURRIE of THE BULL PEN BBS who started this Echo and are working the hardest to keep it alive. All of you TS modems out there, GET ON THE BALL AND GET ON THE ECHO!!!!

LARKEN ELECTRONICS-

is working on the TASWORD II SPELL CHECKER and it should be ready sometime in January. The MSCRYPT version will be given to JACK DOHANY to work on. Larry says that he does not know enough about Mscript to

Continued from page 3

attempt it. We are not sure exactly how it will operate, but Larry has been looking at a lot of PC word processors to get an idea or two as to how to implement it. The dictionary should be at least 25,000 words and we are hoping to see an 'ADD' facility in the program. Let's wait and see.

That's it for this time!

See you later!

LARKEN LINES

by: ROD GOWEN

Well folks, by the time you are reading this column Christmas should be over and New Years may also be past. I just want to say that I hope you and yours had or are having a GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON!

This month I am going to refer you to the BITS & BYTES column in this newsletter for the small tid-bit of Larken news that we had for you. No sense repeating ourselves!

I am going to turn the forum over to our illustrious newsletter editor, DICK WAGNER, this month as he explains his set up using the LKDOS/OLIGER DOS combination system. Some of you may find it of interest. We can all learn a thing or two from others tinkering. I hope you all enjoy it. Let's start hearing from you Larken users who read this column! If you do not let us know what you like, or even, if you like it, we will end up quitting! How about sending in some questions you may have regarding the care and feeding of your Larken system - IN WRITING! We would be glad to run a couple of question/answer columns here!

Take it away Dick----

USING THE LARKEN/OLIGER
DOS CARTRIDGE

Dick F. Wagner

The following comments are associated with the OLIGER system. Probably most references will also work with the AERCO system. I'm not sure that the AERCO system board includes a NMI (non-maskable interrupt) switch that the OLIGER board has.

With the OLIGER board switch OFF and the LARKEN switch ON, power up the computer. This initializes only the LARKEN system and RANDOMIZE USER 100: becomes effective for commands.

The OLIGER system is initialized next by switching the board to ON and entering RESTORE /S. This is the same action as if the computer is powered up with the board switch OFF. Now, both systems are operational to their own commands. Confirmation of this can be done by using the CAT command for each system with an appropriate disk, or switching disk drives with the associated commands.

Sometimes a program or disk operation will lock up the system. I usually use the NMI switch and "C" to get back to operation. However, if working with the LARKEN system ON, this will not work. Just switch off the LARKEN board and use the same procedure in OLIGER mode, then turn ON the LARKEN system again. All is in operation again. If only the LARKEN system has been activated, just switch it OFF and switch on the OLIGER board. Use the same NMI and "C" procedure, then turn the OLIGER board OFF and the LARKEN board back on. The usual "OK" display shows.

The LARKEN AUTOSTART will not work with the OLIGER system initialized as it requires the computer to be in the OFF mode to begin. To get the OLIGER system into operation, use BREAK to go into BASIC and then use the RESTORE command. Now use GO TO or RUN to get back into the program that AUTOSTARTed. There is a nice alternative to AUTOSTART for the OLIGER system. Use the DOSDEX program developed by Robert Hartung and published in the UPDATE Magazine. This program resides in the disk file 0. Insert the appropriate OLIGER disk in the drive and enter "LOAD." This displays the disk directory plus a cursor. Just move the cursor to the desired file and on "ENTER" it will auto load. The LARKEN AUTOLOAD works well with a menu file that is saved with "RANDOMIZE USER 102:" but it is necessary to insert into the menu program all of the files to be loaded and then select by number or letter the desired file. >>>>

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Purchasers of a LARKEN cartridge received a special instruction manual that is system specific. However, it is short of information for operating the LARKEN system. A LARKEN manual is available from RMG Enterprises that is for the regular LARKEN board. (NOTE: THE COMPLETE MANUAL IS NOW INCLUDED WITH ALL CARTRIDGES).

As there is a LARKEN cartridge for either the OLIGER or AERCO systems, FORMATTING programs specific to all 3 systems are available but usually utility programs are for only the LARKEN board. (EDITOR'S NOTE: NOT SO! ANY PROGRAM WRITTEN FOR LKDOS WILL USUALLY RUN ON ANY OF THE 3 SYSTEMS). It is a good idea to add the specific FORMATTING program to the utility disk you are using. Since some utility packages come with a copy of the FORMAT program, the unused program can then be deleted. However, check any menu program that is included as it may require altering for the correct FORMAT file name. The format program I use is "Format.BO".

NMI saves work with either LARKEN or OLIGER system by switching off the system not to be used. But BE SURE ONLY ONE SYSTEM IS ACTIVE, or you will cause a system crash! An OLIGER program can be saved as a LARKEN program and a LARKEN program can be saved as a OLIGER program but the appropriate LOAD command for each type of SAVE must be used. If a program such as MSCRIPT for OLIGER is saved with text as a LARKEN program, it works in all respects except for the SAVE and LOAD commands in the menu. Thus I can send a text plus MSCRIPT to a LARKEN user (either full board or cartridge) with suitable loading instruction.

The NEW command works with either system as they remain initialized.

The LPRINT command is available to either system by using the appropriate POKES. The LARKEN system uses "RANDOMIZE USR 100: POKE address,n", where you have a choice of addresses and numbers to set the type of interface, left margin, line

length and line feeds. The OLIGER system uses "LET /P=0/G" (or for your printer) and then "POKE 23300,60" and "POKE 23301,3". Now use LPRINT in place of OUT 127,n.

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A WAY AROUND A PROBLEM

Duane Hewitt

I bought a terminal a while ago that you could call a smart terminal. That is, you are able to set parameters from the keyboard. It had

a couple of different types of emulators, (ANSI/VT100/VT52). I was mostly interested in the VT100 part.

This terminal has two input-output ports. Both of them are RS232C type. One was designed to be used as input-output from a large computer. The other is for a printer.

Well, to shorten the story, the port for the computer is an RS232C and as such should be able to talk to any other unit that will use RS232C input, and so it does. I put a cable from this outfit to my telephone modem and was able to talk to BBS's, which was nice. The best thing about the whole thing is that it is a 80 column display.

Now, how can I save some or all of this information that is coming in through the BBS? Well, first there is a printer port, and I do have a printer that will work with serial input, which is RS232C. So we hook it up and by telling the smart terminal to send all information to the printer we are able to have a hard copy of everything that the terminal receives. It so happens that it used up paper like crazy. Now is the time for the good old 2068 to come to the rescue.

I thought about the printer problem of using up my paper too fast and came up with this solution. I had an RS232C port that I made from a BITEBACK modem board which was for Packet radio transmission. Why not plug the RS232C cable from that unit into the printer port of the smart terminal? OK, I did that but now I needed the 2068 to be able to understand the information coming out of the terminal. It seemed that a good terminal program would work, so I loaded MAXCOM (LKDOS), set the baud rate correctly, and it worked!!

Do you know what MAXCOM can do with information? It will save it to disk as a sequential file. This file can be very large and you can put it into Tasword II, or other word processor that you might have.

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So now you can print out only lines you want to save, or you can view them via a word processor.

I don't know what equipment you may have other than your Sinclair computer, but sometimes a bit of experimenting can help solve a problem.

-PRODUCT REPORT-

STAR 1000 PRINTER

This is a short report on the STAR 1000 printer. Below is a sample of what I have been able to do on the STAR 1000 I have just aquired. This is only a sample I have not even explored what all it will do. There is 42 combination of type that can be used, including italics in each mode, which are PICA, ELITE, CONDENSED, PROPOTIONAL, COURIER, SANSERIF, ORATOR. With Tasword II the posiblities are endless.

The tractor is concealed inside and has a clean top, an auto paper park on the tractor feed and has single sheet feed.

The one thing I found I did not like was the top cover is awkward to lift, so I installed a handle and it solved that problem.

QUAD SIZE

DOUBLE SIZE

DOUBLE HIGH

DOUBLE WIDE

OVERLINE

UNDERLINE

SUPERSCRIPT

SUBSCRIPT

This report is written with PICA, SANSERIF.

Robert E. Evans

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Elections for this year are settled for two of the three positions being voted on. The chairman position was a tie vote between Ken Lutes and Ed Fry so a coin flip will determine this position for 1990. We sure hope both contestants show up for the January meeting.

Vice Chairman will be Gaylen Bench and the Secretary continues to be Betty Schaffler. A nice group of officers either way. We understand that Betty would appreciate a ride to meetings as night time driving is not one of her more pleasureable pursutes

Recently my memory needed some jogging concerning how long the CCAT/S have been publishing a newsletter. As I have every issue I worked out the following information. The first issue (undated) was Vol.1, No.1 and was apparently the September 1983 issue as it mentioned that the September meeting would be at Clackamas Community College. Beginning in 1984 the issue numbers dropped back to No.1 with Vol.2.

The October issue carried the first reference to "THE PLOTTER" with the present diagram except that the suggested name for the group was "Clackams Area T/S and Z/X Users". At this meeting the name was settled with the current name and the lettering on the diagram was changed to the current display. The December 1983 issue carried the cats logo for the first time. This display was drawn for use on member pins, etc.

The first published programs were in the first issue. Rod had 3 programs for math drills for his daughters. Dennis Jurries had a word processor program for the TS 1000. Jack Armstrong had his first program published in the February 1984 issue. Do you remember the "do nothing" program, Jack? My first published program was in the October 1983 issue. It was done on either the ZX 81 or TS 1000 computer for my

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grandson who wanted a moving graphic display. Well, it did move a little.

As this is about our anniversary time, our first meeting must have been in about December, 1982. We met at Quinten Ripply's office on Beaver Creek Rd. This meeting was organized by Rod Gowen and Dennis Jurries. Sometime in 1983 Dennis arranged for meetings to be held at the Community College. On Dec 5, 1984 our group started to hold meetings at the current location.

Did any of our readers see the article in the December 4, 1989 issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT about Britians fallen idols of free enterprise? An excert from this article, "--the recent eclipse of Amstrad founder Alan Sugar. In eight years, Sugar built his computer and electronics firm from zero to sales of \$1 billion by niche marketing a computer-based word processor. He then branched into videos, fax machines and satelite dishes. But the expansion came just as Amstrad was suffering from management weakness and an acute shortage of memory chips. Profits have slumped by 52%, to \$120 million, while borrowing has soared. With shares trading at a quarter of their 1988 value, Sugar is scouting for a production partner." And so it goes in the computer industry.

-NOTICE-

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meeting. This newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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